KVK in Goa

416. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the .Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the South Goa district:

(b) if so, whether the Kendra has started functioning; and

(c) the details of activities proposed to be undertaken by the said Kendra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned a Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in South Goa district under the administrative control of the Government of Goa. Necessary funds have also been released in February, 2005. The Kendra has not become functional as the staff has to be provided by the State Government.

(c) The details of activities of KVK include on-farm trial to identify the location specificity of agricultural technology under various farming systems, frontline demonstration to establish its production potential on the farmers' fields, training of farmers to update their knowledge and skill, and training of extension personnel to orient them in the frontier areas of technology development.

Purchase of cotton from farmers

417. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to purchase more and more cotton from the farmers;

(b) if so, the details of cotton purchased by the CCI during the current year in each State;

(c) the details of actual production of cotton in each State; and

(d) how Government are protecting the interests of cotton farmers?